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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/675,972

10/02/2003

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Q77793

6295

23373 7590 12/04/2008
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EXAMINER

KEEFER, MICHAEL E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2454

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,972	Applicant(s) EL MGHAZLI ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL E. KEEFER	Art Unit 2454	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed 8/26/2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wittmann et al. (AMnet: Active Multicasting Network), hereafter Wittmann, in view of in view of Eichert et al. (US 6393474), hereafter Eichert in view of Alexander et al. "Active Network Encapsulation Protocol (ANEP)", hereafter ANEP.

Regarding **claims 1 and 9-11**, Wittmann discloses:

A method for reserving resources in a packet communication network, preferably an IP protocol network, this network being a hybrid network comprising both active nodes and passive nodes, the active nodes alone being capable of taking into account so-called active packets, that is to say those containing information related to a corresponding execution environment of these active nodes, an active data flow being a set of active packets having to be taken into account by one and the same execution environment (this network is disclosed in Fig. 1 as well as the first paragraph of section 2.1, and that it is an IP network containing IP nodes), the said method comprising the steps of:

a) sending on the network of a reservation packet containing a request for reservation of resources constituting an execution environment for an associated active data flow; (See Fig. 3, note the RSVP message with the QF Object inside)

b) receiving of the said reservation packet by an active node of the network (Fig. 3 shows the RSVP message being received at the RSVP Daemon);
and

c) reservation of resources of the node according to the said request,
(Note that in Fig. RVSP Daemon forwards the QF Object to the QF Daemon, which then programs the QoS Filter according to the QF object thereby reserving the filtering resources)

the said method being characterized in that the said reservation packet is an active packet. (The RSVP packet containing the QF Object is by definition active as it will program the QoS filters within an active node. Packets carrying information intended for an active node are active packets. It is clear that the QF Object is information intended for an active node.)

Note that Figure 3 is the diagram of an IP active node operable to perform the steps above.

Wittmann discloses all of the limitations of claim 1 except for an indicator that indicates that the active packet comprises executable code or identifies a server from which an executable code is downloadable.

The general concept of an active node receiving code in an active packet reserving policy is well known in the art as taught by Eichert. (Col. 2, line 65

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through Col. 3 line 1 which teaches that the active packet file may contain the policy code executable by the active network devices.)

The general concept of a policy reservation packet identifying a server and code to download and execute from the server is well known in the art as taught by Eichert. (Col. 2, lines 60-67, Col. 3 lines 1-3 teach that the code in the active packet may be stored on a distributed database and the active packet may just inform the device where the packet may be found.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of reserving resources of Wittmann and the general concept of an active node receiving code in an active packet reserving policy as taught by Eichert in order to decouple the policy services from the underlying node infrastructure.

Wittmann and Eichert teach all the limitations of claim 1 except that the packet has an indicator that the packet is active (i.e. that it contains executable code).

The general concept of a packet containing code to have an indicator of that state is well known in the art as taught by ANEP, which discloses a protocol which is used to encapsulate active information within an IP packet.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wittmann and Eichert to use the ANEP in order to allow co-existence of different execution environments and proper demultiplexing of received packets.

Regarding **claim 2 as applied to claim 1**, Wittmann discloses:

the packet is in RSVP format. (Pg. 897, Col. 2, Section 3, lines 5-6 state that Amnet is based on RSVP.)

Regarding **claim 3 as applied to claim 1**, Wittmann discloses:

the packet may be a PATH type of the RSVP protocol. (Page 899, Col. 1, Paragraph 7: "A soft state is created and periodically refreshed by PATH or RESV messages. QF objects are included in these messages.")

Regarding **claim 4 as applied to claim 1**, Wittmann discloses:

the reservation packet comprises an identifier of the said active data flow. (Page 889, Col. 1, "different filters serve different group members in the same active network node", and "User data are directed directly to the corresponding QoS filter" clearly imply that there is a designation of a specific flow (i.e. to a specific group or member) that is to receive the filtering described by the QF object See Figure 4 (b) How Node D provides different quality data flows to separate receivers. Furthermore in an RSVP PATH packet inherently (See RFC 2205, the definition of RSVP for more information) includes a Sender Template which describes the a filter spec that is used to select the proper packets from all the packets sent on the network.)

Regarding **claim 5 as applied to claim 1**, Wittmann discloses:

the said reservation packet is provided for containing parameters for processing data contained in the said associated active data flow, this processing being a code executable by an active node of the network, (see Fig. 2, which shows the format for the parameters for processing the data in the data flow) and

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in that, in the case of these processing parameters being present, the step b) is followed by:

b 1) a step of loading by the said active node of the said corresponding executable code (See Fig. 3, the QF Daemon loads and configures the appropriate QoS-filters); and

b2) a step of execution of the said code by the said active node. (The filters are executed upon members of the group data flow that was reserved. See Fig. 3)

Regarding **claim 6**, Eichert teaches:

The general concept of an active node receiving code in an active packet reserving policy is well known in the art as taught by Eichert. (Col. 2, line 65 through Col. 3 line 1 which teaches that the active packet file may contain the policy code executable by the active network devices.)

Regarding **claim 7**, Eichert teaches:

The general concept of a policy reservation packet identifying a server and code to download and execute from the server is well known in the art as taught by Eichert. (Col. 2, lines 60-67, Col. 3 lines 1-3 teach that the code in the active packet may be stored on a distributed database and the active packet may just inform the device where the packet may be found.)

Regarding **claims 8 and 13 and as applied to claims 1 and 5**, Wittmann discloses:

after the step b1), a step of: b3) sending on the network by the said node of a confirmation of loading of the said executable code. (This step is inherent, as in the RSVP protocol when a node is finished with the setup requested by a PATH or RESV message then the message is forwarded onto the next node on the path. In the case of a failure, an error message is then forwarded in the opposite direction. If the node is unable to load the proper filters (i.e. executable code), the RSVP request will fail, and the error message will be returned to the originator of the PATH message. If the node is successful in reserving the resources (i.e. the filters necessary) then the path message is forwarded to the next node, thus the continuance of the PATH message to be forwarded means that the request succeeded at the previous nodes.)

Regarding **claim 14 as applied to claim 1**, Wittmann discloses:

The reservation packet comprises: a first identifier identifying the protocol for the data flow, a second identifier identifying the source/destination of the data flow, and a third identifier identifying the resources to be reserved. (An RSVP reservation request includes the destination of the dataflow. Fig. 2 discloses that the QF filter contains a protocol (In Fig. 2(b) the C-type is used to identify the video protocol used in the data flow) and also the resources to be used (slices per frame, whether to use color or black and white, the quality filter to provide)).

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4. **Claim 12** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wittmann, Eichert, and Alexander as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Wittmann, Eichert, and Alexander teach all the limitations of claim 12 except for a flag in the header of a packet that indicates that the packet is active or passive.

The general concept of using a flag in the header to indicate whether a packet is active or passive is old and well known in the art, as taught by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. (See Applicant's Specification page 1 lines 29-33)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wittmann, Eichert, and Alexander with the general concept of using a flag in the header to indicate whether a packet is active or passive in order to expedite the processing of flows that do not require quality filters.

5. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wittmann, Eichert, and Alexander as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Deiss et al. (US 2005/0068952), hereafter Deiss.

Wittmann, Eichert and Alexander disclose all the limitations of claim 1 except for the data flow's packets containing executable code.

The general concept of sending executable code in data packets is well known in the art as taught by Deiss. (see [0016] "they may include executable code forming an application to be executed by e.g., a microprocessor located within or associated with a receiver.")

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wittmann, Eichert and Alexander with the general concept of sending executable code in data packets as taught by Deiss in order to allow more types of data to be transmitted on the network.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 8/26/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. Applicant argues that Wittmann fails to disclose "sending a reservation packet comprising a request for reservation of resources constituting an execution environment for the active data flow". Applicant's argument hinges upon the assumption that a limitation in claim 1 exists that requires the active data flow to contain executable code. However, specifically noting Applicant's addition of claim 15 which -requires- executable code, implies that a broader meaning must be given to the independent claim. These video streams are executed upon by the nodes in Wittmann, as the data streams are altered by the code executing on the nodes, which have been configured by the RSVP packets (i.e. the QF filters).

8. Applicant argues that Eichart fails to disclose an active packet reserving policy. The Examiner points to Eichart, Col. 8, in which the 'rules' are encoded into java objects intended to be executed by an active node. This can also include storing references to variables and methods necessary to execute the objects. (See specifically lines 64-67, lines 42-55, and lines 8-30).

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9. The Examiner disagrees with Applicant's characterization of Alexander, And will clarify his position here. The 'indicator' is not a specific portion of the header as Applicant is attempting to find, but instead the entire header itself is an indicator that the packet is active. (I.e. the header found on page 2).

10. Finally, Applicant argues that Wittmann does not disclose that the packet is a PATH type packet.

11. The Examiner will refer Applicant to the RSVP v1 Functional Specification (RFC 2205) which was entered into the record by the Applicant in the IDS dated 10/2/2003. Note page 19, which shows an exemplary way in which RSVP works, and a short description of PATH and RESV messages. Further information can be found within the document as far as the nature of the PATH and RESV messages. Essentially, the sender of data sends a PATH message to the receiver. This message is used to find if there is a path that will support the requirements of the data flow between them. Once the receiver gets the PATH message, it response with an RESV message, which actually confirms the reservation of resources upon the data path.

12. Applicant admits that Wittmann discloses using the RVSP protocol. Wittmann discloses that QF filters are in both the PATH and RESV messages (as would be necessary in order to actually reserve the QF filters desired).

13. The Examiner believes that a telephonic interview may expedite the prosecution of this case.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL E. KEEFER whose telephone number is (571)270-1591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

12/2/2008 MEK

/Dustin Nguyen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454